

**ASSEMBLY, No. 6215**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED DECEMBER 9, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

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**District 18 (Middlesex)**

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**District 7 (Burlington)**

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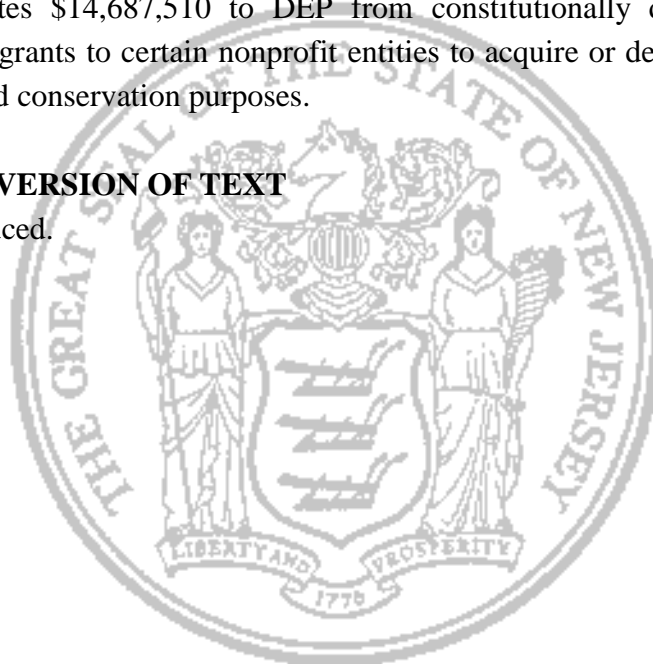
**Assemblymen Freiman, McKeon, Assemblywomen Downey and Swain**

**SYNOPSIS**

Appropriates \$14,687,510 to DEP from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues for grants to certain nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/10/2022)**

AN ACT appropriating \$14,687,510 from constitutionally dedicated corporation business tax revenues to provide grants to assist qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organizations to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. a. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental Protection the sum of \$14,687,510 from the dedicated corporation business tax revenues pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution in the “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund,” established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48), for the purpose of providing grants to assist qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organizations to acquire lands for recreation and conservation purposes pursuant to subsection b. of this section, to develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes pursuant to subsection c. of this section, and to undertake stewardship activities pursuant to subsection d. of this section. Of the amount appropriated pursuant to this subsection, the sum of \$504,090 is available due to interest earnings on the dedicated corporation business tax revenues pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution.

b. The following projects for the acquisition of lands for recreation and conservation purposes are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to subsection a. of this section:

| Nonprofit Organization        | Project                           | County     | Municipality   | Approved Amount |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|--|-----------------|
| (1) Bergen SWAN               | Ramapo Mountain Conservation Area | Bergen     | Mahwah Twp<br>Oakland Boro   | \$500,000       |
| (2) D & R Greenway Land Trust | Greenway Acq                      | Burlington | Beverly City<br>Bordentown City<br>Bordentown Twp<br>Burlington City<br>Burlington Twp<br>Chesterfield Twp<br>Cinnaminson Twp<br>Delanco Twp<br>Delran Twp<br>Edgewater Park Twp<br>Fieldsboro Boro<br>Florence Twp<br>Hainesport Twp<br>Mansfield Twp<br>Maple Shade Twp<br>Moorestown Twp<br>Mount Holly Twp<br>Mount Laurel Twp<br>Palmyra Boro<br>Riverside Twp<br>Riverton Boro | 1,000,000       |

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|   |   |            |   |         |
|---|---|------------|---|---------|
|   |   |            | Springfield Twp<br>Westhampton Twp<br>Willingboro Twp   |         |
|   |   | Camden     | Audubon Boro<br>Audubon Park Boro<br>Brooklawn Boro<br>Camden City<br>Cherry Hill Twp<br>Collingswood Boro<br>Gloucester City<br>Haddon Heights Boro<br>Haddon Twp<br>Haddonfield Boro<br>Merchantville Boro<br>Mount Ephraim Boro<br>Oaklyn Boro<br>Pennsauken Twp<br>Woodlynne Boro |         |
|   |   | Cumberland | Deerfield Twp<br>Fairfield Twp<br>Greenwich Twp<br>Hopewell Twp<br>Stow Creek Twp<br>Upper Deerfield Twp  |         |
|   |   | Gloucester | National Park Boro<br>West Deptford Twp<br>Westville Boro   |         |
|   |   | Hunterdon  | All municipalities  |         |
|   |   | Mercer     | All municipalities  |         |
|   |   | Middlesex  | All municipalities  |         |
|   |   | Monmouth   | All municipalities  |         |
|   |   | Morris     | All municipalities  |         |
|   |   | Salem      | Elsinboro Twp<br>Lower Alloways Creek<br>Twp<br>Mannington Twp<br>Pennsville Twp  |         |
|   |   | Somerset   | All municipalities  |         |
| (3) Friends of<br>Hopewell<br>Quarry, Inc.                            | Quarry Swim<br>Club                               | Mercer     | Hopewell Twp  | 91,450  |
| (4) Friends of<br>Hopewell Valley<br>Open Space                       | Hopewell<br>Valley Park<br>Acq                    | Mercer     | Hopewell Boro<br>Hopewell Twp<br>Lawrence Twp   | 500,000 |
| (5) Friends of<br>Princeton Open<br>Space                             | Millstone<br>River<br>Watershed                   | Mercer     | Princeton Boro  | 250,000 |
| (6) Greater<br>Culver Lake<br>Watershed<br>Conservation<br>Foundation | Watershed<br>Protection<br>Program                | Sussex     | Frankford Twp   | 230,000 |
| (7) Hunterdon<br>Land Trust   | Hunterdon<br>Open Space<br>Plan Priority<br>Areas | Hunterdon  | All municipalities  | 500,000 |

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|---|--------------------------------|------------|--|-----------|
| (8) Lamington Conservancy               | Central Lamington Project      | Hunterdon  | Readington Twp<br>Tewksbury Twp  | 500,000   |
|   |                                | Morris     | Chester Twp<br>Washington Twp  |           |
|   |                                | Somerset   | Bedminster Twp<br>Peapack-Gladstone Boro   |           |
| (9) Monmouth Conservation Foundation    | Open Space Plans 2             | Monmouth   | All municipalities   | 500,000   |
| (10) Natural Lands Trust, Inc.          | Delaware Estuaries Acquisition | Cumberland | Commercial Twp<br>Downe Twp<br>Greenwich Twp<br>Hopewell Twp<br>Lawrence Twp<br>Maurice River Twp<br>Millville City<br>Stow Creek Twp  | 100,000   |
|   |                                | Salem      | Alloway Twp<br>Lower Alloways Creek Twp<br>Quinton Twp   |           |
| (11) New Jersey Conservation Foundation | Priority Area Acq              | Atlantic   | Buena Vista Twp<br>Egg Harbor City<br>Egg Harbor Twp<br>Estell Manor City<br>Folsom Boro<br>Galloway Twp<br>Hamilton Twp<br>Hammonton Town<br>Mullica Twp<br>Weymouth Twp  | 1,000,000 |
|   |                                | Burlington | Bass River Twp<br>Beverly City<br>Bordentown City<br>Bordentown Twp<br>Burlington City<br>Burlington Twp<br>Chesterfield Twp<br>Cinnaminson Twp<br>Delanco Twp<br>Delran Twp<br>Evesham Twp<br>Fieldsboro Boro<br>Florence Twp<br>Mansfield Twp<br>Medford Twp<br>New Hanover Twp<br>North Hanover Twp<br>Pemberton Twp<br>Shamong Twp<br>Southampton Twp<br>Springfield Twp<br>Tabernacle Twp<br>Washington Twp<br>Woodland Twp |           |
|   |                                | Camden     | Camden City<br>Merchantville Boro<br>Pennsauken Twp  |           |
|   |                                | Cape May   | Lower Twp<br>Middle Twp  |           |

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| Cumberland | Fairfield Twp<br>Greenwich Twp<br>Hopewell Twp<br>Maurice River Twp<br>Millville City<br>Stow Creek Twp<br>Upper Deerfield Twp<br>Vineland City  |
| Gloucester | Logan Twp<br>South Harrison Twp<br>Woolwich Twp  |
| Hunterdon  | All municipalities   |
| Mercer     | East Windsor Twp<br>Ewing Twp<br>Hamilton Twp<br>Hightstown Boro<br>Hopewell Twp<br>Lawrence Twp<br>Trenton City<br>Princeton Boro<br>Robbinsville Twp<br>West Windsor Twp   |
| Middlesex  | Cranberry Twp<br>Edison Twp  |
| Monmouth   | Allentown Boro<br>Millstone Twp<br>Upper Freehold Twp  |
| Morris     | All municipalities   |
| Ocean      | Lacey Twp<br>Ocean Twp<br>Plumsted Twp   |
| Passaic    | West Milford Twp   |
| Salem      | Alloway Twp<br>Carneys Point Twp<br>Elmer Boro<br>Elsinboro Twp<br>Lower Alloways Creek<br>Twp<br>Mannington Twp<br>Oldmans Twp<br>Pennsville Twp<br>Pilesgrove Twp<br>Pittsgrove Twp<br>Quinton Twp<br>Upper Pittsgrove Twp<br>Woodstown Boro |
| Somerset   | Bedminster Twp<br>Bernards Twp<br>Bernardsville Boro<br>Branchburg Twp<br>Bridgewater Twp<br>Far Hills Boro<br>Hillsborough Twp<br>Montgomery Twp<br>Peapack-Gladstone Boro<br>Raritan Boro  |
| Sussex     | Andover Twp<br>Byram Twp<br>Frankford Twp<br>Green Twp   |

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|---|------------------------------------|------------|--|---------|
|   |                                    |            | Hampton Twp<br>Hopatcong Boro<br>Sparta Twp<br>Vernon Twp<br>Wantage Twp   |         |
|   |                                    | Union      | Elizabeth City<br>Linden City<br>Springfield Twp<br>Union Twp  |         |
|   |                                    | Warren     | Blairstown Twp<br>Franklin Twp<br>Frelinghuysen Twp<br>Greenwich Twp<br>Hardwick Twp<br>Harmony Twp<br>Lopatcong Twp<br>Mansfield Twp<br>Pohatcong Twp<br>Washington Twp<br>White Twp  |         |
| (12) Rancocas<br>Conservancy              | Rancocas<br>Watershed Acq          | Burlington | All municipalities   | 495,000 |
| (13) Raritan<br>Headwaters<br>Association | Raritan<br>Headwaters<br>Acq       | Hunterdon  | Alexandria Twp<br>Bethlehem Twp<br>Califon Boro<br>Clinton Town<br>Clinton Twp<br>Delaware Twp<br>East Amwell Twp<br>Flemington Boro<br>Franklin Twp<br>Glen Gardener Boro<br>Hampton Twp<br>High Bridge Boro<br>Lebanon Boro<br>Lebanon Twp<br>Raritan Twp<br>Readington Twp<br>Tewksbury Twp<br>Union Twp<br>West Amwell Twp | 500,000 |
|   |                                    | Morris     | Chester Boro<br>Chester Twp<br>Mine Hill Twp<br>Mendham Boro<br>Mendham Twp<br>Mount Arlington Twp<br>Mount Olive Twp<br>Randolph Twp<br>Roxbury Twp<br>Washington Twp   |         |
|   |                                    | Somerset   | Bedminster Twp<br>Bernards Twp<br>Bernardsville Boro<br>Branchburg Twp<br>Bridgewater Twp<br>Far Hills Boro<br>Hillsborough Twp<br>Peapack-Gladstone Boro<br>Raritan Boro  |         |
| (14) Ridge and<br>Valley<br>Conservancy   | Open Space<br>Conservation<br>Plan | Sussex     | Andover Boro<br>Andover Twp<br>Frankford Twp<br>Fredon Twp   | 500,000 |

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|---|-------------------------|------------|--|-------------|
|   |                         |            | Green Twp<br>Hampton Twp<br>Hardyston Twp<br>Lafayette Twp<br>Sandyston Twp<br>Stillwater Twp<br>Wantage Twp                   |             |
|   |                         | Warren     | Allamuchy Twp<br>Blairstown Twp<br>Frelinghuysen Twp<br>Hardwick Twp<br>Hope Twp<br>Knowlton Twp<br>Mansfield Twp<br>White Twp |             |
| (15) Ridgeview Conservancy              | Province Line Woods Acq | Mercer     | Princeton Boro   | 250,000     |
| (16) South Jersey Land and Water Trust  | South Jersey Watersheds | Gloucester | All municipalities   | 394,410     |
|   |                         | Salem      | Carney's Point Twp<br>Oldmans Twp<br>Pilesgrove Twp  |             |
| (17) The Land Conservancy of New Jersey | Priority Areas Acq      | Bergen     | All municipalities   | 1,000,000   |
|   |                         | Essex      | All municipalities   |             |
|   |                         | Middlesex  | All municipalities   |             |
|   |                         | Morris     | All municipalities   |             |
|   |                         | Passaic    | All municipalities   |             |
|   |                         | Somerset   | All municipalities   |             |
|   |                         | Sussex     | All municipalities   |             |
|   |                         | Union      | All municipalities   |             |
|   |                         | Warren     | All municipalities   |             |
| (18) The Watershed Institute            | Watershed Connectors    | Mercer     | Hopewell Boro<br>Hopewell Twp<br>Pennington Boro<br>Princeton Boro   | 500,000     |
| TOTAL                                   |                         |            |  | \$8,810,860 |

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2 c. The following projects for the development of lands for

3 recreation and conservation purposes are eligible for funding with

4 the moneys appropriated pursuant to subsection a. of this section:

5

| Nonprofit Organization     | Project                             | County | Municipality                    | Approved Amount |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Branch Brook Park Alliance | Branch Brook Park Improvements 2021 | Essex  | Newark City                     | \$500,000       |
| Brookdale Park Conservancy | Brookdale Park Improvements 2021    | Essex  | Bloomfield Twp<br>Montclair Twp | 500,000         |

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|                                       |   |         |                       |             |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Congregation Ahavas Sholom            | Lincoln Elementary Schoolyard Improvements    | Essex   | Orange City Twp       | 250,000     |
| Essex County Parks Foundation         | Amazing Asia Exhibit – Turtle Back Zoo        | Essex   | West Orange Twp       | 500,000     |
| Flat Rock Brook Nature Association    | Jones Road Area Restoration                   | Bergen  | Englewood City        | 500,000     |
| Friends of Passaic County Parks, Inc. | Rifle Camp Park Amphitheater                  | Passaic | Woodlawn Park Borough | 500,000     |
| Hamilton Partnership for Paterson     | Alexander Hamilton Visitor Center Landscaping | Passaic | Paterson City         | 225,000     |
| South Mountain Conservancy            | South Mountain Reservation Improvements 2021  | Essex   | Millburn Twp          | 500,000     |
| SPARK Friends, Inc.                   | Independence Park Improvements 2021           | Essex   | Newark City           | 500,000     |
| Trust for Public Land                 | Multi Park Improvements                       | Essex   | Newark City           | 500,000     |
| Zoological Society of NJ              | Amazing Asia Exhibit – Turtle Back Zoo        | Essex   | West Orange Twp       | 500,000     |
| TOTAL                                 |   |         |                       | \$4,975,000 |

1  
2 d. The following stewardship activity projects are eligible for  
3 funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to subsection a. of  
4 this section:  
5

| Nonprofit Organization                | Project                                 | County     | Municipality    | Approved Amount |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| African American Fund of NJ           | Ambrose Ward Mansion Grounds Renovation | Essex      | East Orange Twp | \$273,750       |
| D&R Greenway Land Trust               | Multi-Park Stewardship                  | Burlington | Bordentown City | 172,900         |
|                                       |   | Hunterdon  | East Amwell Twp |                 |
|                                       |   | Mercer     | Hopewell Twp    |                 |
| Flat Rock Brook Nature Association    | Boardwalk Trail Restoration             | Bergen     | Englewood City  | 25,000          |
| Friends of Passaic County Parks, Inc. | Lambert Tower Historic Landscape        | Passaic    | Paterson City   | 290,000         |

|                                    |  |         |                  |           |
|------------------------------------|--|---------|------------------|-----------|
| Harding Land Trust                 | Gatehouse and Primrose Phase 2               | Morris  | Harding Twp      | 80,000    |
| The Land Conservancy of New Jersey | Nancy Conger West Brook Riparian Restoration | Passaic | West Milford Twp | 60,000    |
| TOTAL                              |  |         |                  | \$901,650 |

e. Any transfer of any funds, or change in project sponsor, site, or type, listed in subsection b., c., or d. of this section shall require the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor.

f. To the extent that moneys remain available after the projects listed in subsection b., c., or d. of this section are offered funding pursuant thereto, any project of a qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organization that previously received funding appropriated or reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for recreation and conservation purposes shall be eligible to receive additional funding, as determined by the Department of Environmental Protection, subject to the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor.

g. There is reappropriated to the Department of Environmental Protection the unexpended balances, due to project withdrawals, cancellations, or cost savings, of the amounts appropriated or reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund to assist qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organizations to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, for the purposes of: (1) this section; and (2) providing additional funding, as determined by the Department of Environmental Protection, to any project of a qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organization that previously received funding appropriated or reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any annual appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund for recreation and conservation purposes, subject to the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor. Any such additional funding provided from a Green Acres bond act may include administrative costs.

h. For the purposes of this section:

“Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund” means the fund established pursuant to section 19 of P.L.1999, c.152 (C.13:8C-19).

“Green Acres bond act” means P.L.2009, c.117, P.L.2007, c.119, P.L.1995, c.204, P.L.1992, c.88, P.L.1989, c.183, P.L.1987, c.265, and P.L.1983, c.354.

“Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” means the fund

1 established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,”  
2 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48).

3 “Stewardship activity” means the same as the term is defined in  
4 section 3 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12  
5 (C.13:8C-45).

6  
7 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
8 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund,” established pursuant to  
9 section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12  
10 (C.13:8C-48), the sum of \$14,687,510 to implement the provisions  
11 of section 1 of this act.

12  
13 3. This act shall take effect immediately.  
14  
15

#### 16 STATEMENT

17  
18 The bill appropriates \$14,687,510 to the Department of  
19 Environmental Protection (DEP) to provide grants to various  
20 nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands for recreation and  
21 conservation purposes.

22 The funding in this bill is provided from constitutionally  
23 dedicated corporation business tax (CBT) revenues pursuant to  
24 Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution,  
25 approved by the voters of the State in November 2014. The  
26 “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.),  
27 implements the constitutional dedication of CBT revenues for open  
28 space, farmland, and historic preservation. The “Preserve New  
29 Jersey Green Acres Fund” was established by section 6 of the  
30 “Preserve New Jersey Act.” The act provides that a certain amount  
31 of the portion of dedicated CBT revenues allocated each year for  
32 the Green Acres program is to be used for: the acquisition of lands  
33 for open space, including Blue Acres projects, and development  
34 projects on State lands administered by the DEP’s Division of Fish  
35 and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry; grants and loans to  
36 fund local government open space acquisition and development  
37 projects; and grants to nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands  
38 for recreation and conservation purposes. This bill appropriates  
39 funds to be used to provide grants to nonprofit entities to acquire or  
40 develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes. Further, of  
41 the funding allocated for acquisition and development projects by  
42 nonprofit entities, a certain percentage is to be used to fund  
43 stewardship activities undertaken by nonprofit entities. A  
44 “stewardship activity” is defined in the “Preserve New Jersey Act”  
45 as an activity, which is beyond routine operations and maintenance,  
46 undertaken to repair or restore lands acquired or developed for

1 recreation and conservation purposes for the purpose of enhancing  
2 or protecting those lands for recreation and conservation purposes.

3 Of the amount appropriated by the bill to provide grants to  
4 various nonprofit entities: \$8,810,860 is allocated for acquisition  
5 projects; \$4.975 million is allocated for park development projects;  
6 and \$901,650 is allocated for stewardship activity projects.

7 The projects listed in this bill have been approved by the DEP  
8 and the Garden State Preservation Trust.

9 The bill also would allow the DEP to re-distribute certain other  
10 moneys, which have been returned to the department due to project  
11 withdrawals, cancellations, or cost savings, for the purpose of  
12 providing additional funding, for recreation and conservation  
13 purposes, to previously approved and funded projects of nonprofit  
14 entities, subject to the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight  
15 Committee. This additional funding, if provided from a Green  
16 Acres bond act, may include administrative costs.